

Central Iowa NWA Meeting -- October 14, 2008

7:00 PM at NWS Office, Johnston, Iowa

Featured Presentation:

“Analysis of a heavy snow event near Bussey and Oskaloosa, Iowa on 3 February 2008”

by Des Moines NWS employees Ken Podrazik and Mindy Albrecht

Officer Elections - All nominees listed below, elected officer in bold.

President - **Dave Flory**

Vice President - **Mindy Albrecht**
Chris Maiers

Treasurer - **Chris Karstens**

Secretary - **Jayson Prentice**
Jeff Duda
Suzanne Morris

13th Annual Severe Storms and Doppler Radar Conference

April 2, 3, and 4, 2009 at the Sheraton of West Des Moines

Contracts with the Sheraton of West Des Moines have been signed to continue the conference at that location through the 2009 and 2010 conferences. Room rates are currently given at \$102 a night; however, this does not include the government rates. The contract does state that all government rooms will be included within our room blocks that are designated for our conference. Additional discussion with the hotel regarding the allowance of government rates and the process in which to receive them will take place.

If you wish to sign-up for a conference committee you were able to sign-up at the meeting, or you may be added by emailing President Flory (flory@iastate.edu).

Agenda Update (Bill Gallus)

Tim Samaras was unanimously selected by the agenda committee to be the banquet speaker; it is felt that the banquet will be held on Thursday evening with chase videos following. Tim Samaras has been contacted and has given the initial agreement that he would be happy to attend once again. The agenda committee voted on several topics in regards to other invited speakers, the best topics of interest included:

Hurricane Ike (along Gulf Coast)

Windsor, CO tornado

Remnants of Ike and the damaging wind event in the Tennessee/Ohio Valleys

Picher, OK tornado

Nearly any of the talks could be speakers from either the media, or from NWS employees. The Picher, OK tornado could be discussed by Ray Wolf because he was on the assessment team; and he was already planning to attend as a part of several hydrology presentations. The police chief from Parkersburg, IA has already expressed interest in presenting at the conference. Although several others could also present, it is best to make sure that any presenters have some background in public speaking. With a lot of significant events in/near Iowa, several local talks will likely fill the agenda and will help to cut down any costs for the agenda committee. Other discussion brought up the Moore, OK tornado anniversary which may be discussed by the agenda committee. Additional ideas included the potential for a panel discussion on certain event(s). It is believed that a start time near 1 PM on Thursday, with ending time near 3 PM on Saturday should be okay.

The vendor committee has begun work to get both booths and advertisements sold; a few companies have already stated that they would be in attendance once again. Brenda Brock stated that there is potential for the NWS to have a booth at the conference, with funding likely to come from the regional weather office.

Registration fees and potential raises have been an ongoing discussion. Current fees are \$65 for students and \$130 for others; with member rates of \$50 and \$60 respectively. Other conference registration fees were researched by Scott Lincoln and Mindy Albrecht, they are listed on the back of the agenda. Using these rates from other conferences is however a rough estimate, as it is not listed whether they provide snacks, a meal, etc. It has been proposed through emails that we increase the student rate \$5 and \$10 for others. Discussion included comments that previous registration rates have not increased dramatically, 2003 rates were only \$15 less than the current proposed. It was stated that we must eventually increase our rates to absorb inflation that has occurred throughout the past years in which we have not increased rates. Treasurer Karstens indicated that the proposed \$5/\$10 increase would allow for an additional \$980 in revenue given last year's attendance.

A motion was made by Suzanne Morris to raise the non-member rates for students by \$5, and to raise the non-member rates for others by \$10. Motion was seconded by Scott Lincoln. Majority approved, Motion Passed.

Member rates were tabled for discussion at a later point in the meeting.

Officer/Committee Chair Room Reimbursements Issues

Prior email discussion within the chapter had brought up several potential ideas for the use of complimentary rooms, and the potential purchase of additional rooms to allow key conference personnel to stay at the hotel. Discussion at the meeting concluded that the president is a good choice for receiving the complimentary room because they are the main point of contact during the meeting. An issue of whether or not the president needs the room if they live within a certain distance away from the hotel was expressed. If the president or first appointed to receive the room does not need or want the room it should fall to the 'next in-line' on a priority list.

The priority list beyond the president should fall to the electronics and registration chairs, as they are two members that are important to proper operation of the conference. Discussion continued to include that we could have two rooms per night, having one room for the president and another for the electronics/registration chairs. The electronics and registration chair could each receive one night stay at the hotel, i.e. the registration chair stay on Thursday night, and the electronics on Friday night. Although the chapter could pay for all three to receive rooms during the conference, it was felt that the chapter should not put financial risk on the possibilities to pay for that number of rooms.

The chapter has typically received two room nights from the Sheraton hotel in past years, this equal's one room per night of the conference. Suggestions include that we state a clause that the chapter pays for only one room per night, given that if we receive complimentary rooms that they can be distributed to allow for additional members on the priority list to receive a room.

A motion by Scott Lincoln was made to establish that the chapter purchases two room nights regardless, with any complimentary rooms being additional to allow a priority list of members to stay at the hotel. Suzanne Morris seconded. Majority approved, Motion Passed.

The priority list may be established at later meetings before the conference.

Videotaping of the Conference

Previous email discussion, and continued discussion at the meeting expressed that it is in best interest to the conference, its' speakers, and the chapter that we do not allow attendees to videotape the conference. Many speakers may not want their presentation to be recorded, and that videotaping in the past has brought up some negative feelings for other attendees. There is potential for the conference to be recorded by the chapter, and this tape to be offered to attendees at a price to where we can cover our costs.

A motion by Scott Lincoln was made to prohibit the videotaping/recording of the conference unless approved by the chapter cabinet and speaker. Logan Karsten seconded. Majority approved, Motion Passed.

A motion by Chris Maiers was made to table the construction of a policy for videotaping by the chapter to a later meeting. Ken Podrazik seconded. Majority approved, Motion Passed.

Member Registration

Previous email discussion has brought up several possibilities for policing member registrations. Discussion at the meeting included the idea that we should set a date in which you must become a member in order to receive the reduced conference rates. A requirement to be an active member was discussed, but it was also felt that this may be quite difficult to decide between what classifies someone as an active or inactive member. Another solution may also be to raise the non-student member rate, as there is a large disparity between the amounts that the students save compared to the non-students. An increase to \$90 for non-students would be a near-equal percentage discount to what the students are currently receiving as members.

A motion by Jeff Duda was made to raise non-student member rates to \$90, with no requirements as to whether or not you are an active or inactive member; Student rates will continue to be \$50. Motion seconded by Logan Karsten. Majority in favor, Motion Passed.

Discussion continued as to the belief that we should set a date that you must become a member by to receive the discount at the conference. By-laws state that members must become a member of the chapter within 30 days of the January meeting in order to be classified as a member in good standing. It is thought that we should begin to strictly enforce this by-law during this conference year.

Amendments of the By-Laws (Jeff Duda)

A by-law committee has been established and members are listed on the agenda. This committee plans to go through the by-laws and make any changes that they deem necessary, they would also draw up a conference policy document that would include many of the current issues that we are, and have been discussing. If you wish to be added to this committee please email one of the members that are listed on the agenda.

Fundraising Opportunities (Vice President Mindy Albrecht)

Wells Fargo arena and/or Hilton coliseum both provide us with an opportunity to run a concession stand at an event. Nine percent of the profit after taxes is given to the group that is running the concession stand; typical amounts earned are around \$500-\$900. If there is interest, some potential dates have been established by Vice president Albrecht and could be sent out to poll the potential. If we can establish this and run two 'large' events we have the potential to bring in \$1000-\$2000 that will help curb costs of the agenda, and potentially allow us to do other activities. Vice president Albrecht will send out informative emails about this opportunity, with a list of potential dates included.

Treasurers Report (Treasurer Chris Karstens)

The current balance is \$13,589.56. Current members must pay dues by the January meeting; any new members should pay dues while they are attending their first meeting.

Secretaries Notes (Secretary Jayson Prentice)

Field trip opportunities have been brought up in the past few meetings, if you have any ideas as to where to take a field trip please let President Dave Flory (flory@iastate.edu) know.

Other Items

Johnny Mann is a quadrapalegic from the Carroll, IA area; he has attended the meeting in the past years with his grandmother. An idea was brought up to make him an honorary member and to potentially waive his registration fee. Continued discussion brought up the potential to honor him for Americans with Disabilities month, allowing the chapter to not make this a personal basis, but rather broaden the reasoning why we would honor him by waiving registration, etc.

The next meeting of the Central Iowa NWS will take place on the tentative date of November 12, likely in Ames, IA at a location to be determined.

Ben Schwedler motions to adjourn, Ken Podrazik seconded. Majority approves, Motion Passes.

Meeting Adjourned.

Any questions regarding meetings minutes from October 14, 2008 can be directed at the Central Iowa NWA Secretary Jayson Prentice (jaysonprentice@gmail.com) Previous meeting minutes along with a copy of the agenda for this meeting can be found on the Iowa NWA web page at the following address: <http://www.iowa-nwa.com/minutes.php>